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sanitation of the town and other matters over which the Committees have control.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member are noted for consideration.

100. Suggestion regarding the election of the non-official Members of Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. L. M. Raja Raja Varma (Member, T. I. C., Changanacherry) said that the non-official seats in the Town Improvement Committees were filled up at their formation by the local Tahsildars and afterwards by the Committees. In practice, it resulted in the wealthy, yet uneducated, men being returned as non-official members. They did not understand nor care to understand the nature of their work. The Member therefore requested, particularly with regard to the Committee at Changanacherry, that it should be ruled that, in the case of a vacancy among the non-official members, the Committee should invite not less than five educated men from each *kara* of the town and fill up the vacancy according to their votes.

Replying to the query of the Dewan, the Member said that, if the electoral system was introduced, it would meet the case.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

101. The need for a supply of wholesome water for the town of Nagercoil.

Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that the cry of the town of Nagercoil, unlike other places, was not for a costly building or road, but for simple water. The question was not a new one, but was being pressed on the attention of the Government now for several years. Both Mr. Ratnaswamy Iyer, while in charge of the Southern Division, and Mr. Jopp, the late Chief Engineer, had addressed the Government on the subject. The people were quiet for some time, feeding on the pious hope that, with the completion of the Petchipara Works, their difficulties would be reduced ; but it was not to be, for, during the hot season—when water was required most—not a drop of water would be let out of the Reservoir. Most of the tanks in the town were being used both for irrigation and for communal purposes. The Irrigation officers took care to drain away the tanks before the Reservoir was closed. In the whole town, there were only about 70 wells—public and private put together. About 95 per cent of the houses had no wells. Of the 70 wells, the water in 40 was too bad to be used. Even the remaining 30 wells were undergoing deterioration, for, with the introduction of the Petchipara water, wet cultivation was rapidly extending into the heart of the town and the water in the wells was getting contaminated by percolation. In fact, the town itself was becoming more insanitary by the extending wet cultivation.

Dewan.—The proper thing would be for the Town Improvement Committee to prohibit such cultivation.

Member.—The Committee have no power under the Regulation to prevent cultivation.

Dewan.—It is for the Committee to ask for the power. The whole town of Nagercoil is within the commanded area and it is, I know, getting water-logged. As wet cultivation extends and as the houses are on a lower level, I fear that the

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time will not be far when the public health of the town will seriously suffer. The only remedy would be for the Committee to take power to prevent paddy cultivation within its limits and induce the ryots to resort to cereal cultivation, which would require comparatively less water. A mere drainage channel to divert the water will not carry you far. I know a similar thing occurred in the Kurnool town when the Tungabhadra canal was introduced into it. There was an out-break of fever all over the town and it continued for several years. But when the Municipality stepped in and prohibited wet cultivation, the fever disappeared in a few years and the town became healthy again.

The Member continuing said that, to add to the people's troubles, epidemics invariably ravaged the town and carried away many souls year after year. It was all due to the unwholesome water. Even the Petchipara water would be better than the water in some of the wells. In the interests of public health, he requested that some arrangement should be made by the Government to ensure a regular supply of wholesome water to the town.

Mr. G Jesudasen (Member, Nominated) said that the town of Nagercoil was one of the most important of the Moffusil towns, but it had earned the name of being the home of cholera. The outbreak of cholera in Nagercoil was at regular intervals. It was practically the first place where cholera made its appearance in any year and the last from which it disappeared. Since cholera was a water-borne disease, its prevalence on a very large scale every year was an unfailing evidence of the existence of bad water. There were only very few wells comparatively in Nagercoil. There was not even one, at certain places, for two or three streets. The Government well in the old Telegraph office compound was the only source of water supply to eight streets in the neighbourhood. The respectable people had to pay for water in Nagercoil. The supply of wholesome water to the town was insufficient. The Member therefore requested that the Government might be pleased to order the sinking of a few wells in each of the crowded quarters of the town so as to augment the supply of water available from the wells already in existence there, and more especially one well at the Nagercoil market place fitted with a pump and cattle troughs.

He next said that at present only very few wells supplied good water. The water got from most of the existing wells was insipid or brackish. During seasons of epidemic the wells became easily contaminated and then played an important part in the dissemination of the cholera and small-pox germs. Good water could be had from the wells only if they were drained regularly. The Town Improvement Committee would not take any practical interest in the matter, all that they did at the time of the epidemic being to cause a small quantity of permanganate of potash to be thrown into the wells. He therefore requested that the Government should order the draining of the various public wells in the town about October of every year, when cholera usually made its appearance in Nagercoil, and also to regularly disinfect them till the end of January. The duty of disinfecting the wells might be left in the hands of some intelligent men in the

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town. He added that, if necessary, a portion of the expenditure, which however should be very small, might be levied from the people to whom the wells were a convenience.

Lastly, he said that water was not being let into the tanks of the town when the fields lay fallow. The water in the tanks was necessary for human purposes also. He requested that the Irrigation Department should be instructed to make arrangements to keep all the important tanks within the town well-supplied with water from the respective feeder channels throughout the year.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer will be asked to report on the whole question of the water-supply to the town of Nagercoil.

102. The necessity for a public market at Colachel.

Mr. R. Taylor (Member, T. I. C., Colachel) said that there was the pressing need of a central public market under proper control on a sanitary site in the town of Colachel. There were now two small private markets, one situated close to the beach and the other in the heart of the Chetty part of the town. Both the sites, he said, were unsuitable for a market, as they were insanitary and had not adequate room for the people who congregated there. He thanked the Government, on behalf of his Committee, for the grant of a site for a public market for three years, and he requested the Government to make the tenure permanent, so that the Committee might lay out money on it in erecting the necessary sheds, etc. A good central market would be a great improvement to the town, a benefit to the inhabitants, a reform much needed from a sanitary point of view, and a source of income to the Committee. He said that Wednesday and Saturday were proposed as the market days.

The present site was excellent for a market with but one drawback, and that was the absence of a suitable well, which was so very necessary for every market for washing and other purposes. The Member therefore requested that, as the funds of the Committee now would not warrant the expenditure for the sinking of a well, the Government should kindly see their way to grant a special allotment for the same.

Dewan's reply.—The land will be granted *permanently* to the Town Improvement Committee, so that they may erect the necessary sheds.

103. Trivandrum sanitation, its shortcomings, and certain suggestions for its improvement.

Mr. S. N. Krishna Iyer, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that certain sanitary requirements of an indispensable character for the town of Trivandrum were pressed on the attention of the Government by himself at the last Assembly ; but as the Government had done nothing in that direction, he was forced to reiterate some of them, even at the risk of repetition.

(1) *Road-watering.*—The watering of roads was an important sanitary measure. It prevented the undue wear of the roads ; it cooled the atmosphere and stopped clouds of decaying refuse being distributed. On referring to a good many Municipalities outside the State, he learnt that road-

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